



COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE UPDATE

JANUARY 2004

2004-2005 COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE INFORMATION

Current commercial fishing licenses, boat registrations or other entitlements expire March 31, 2004. Applications to renew your 2004-2005 commercial fishing license, commercial boat registration and other commercial fishing permits were sent in separate envelopes.

2004 DIGEST OF COMMERCIAL FISH LAWS

Due to budget reductions, at this time the 2004 Digest of California Commercial Fish Laws and Licensing Requirements (Digest) is only available at the Department of Fish and Game's (Department) web site at www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/commercial/commercialinfo.html. The Digest contains the most significant laws and rules affecting commercial fishing.

REDUCED HOURS AT DEPARTMENT LICENSE SALES COUNTERS MAY AFFECT IN PERSON CUSTOMERS

Due to budget and personnel reductions, some Department offices have reduced their license sales counter hours. Commercial fishing licenses and permits are issued by mail and by appointment only in some Department offices. Customers should call in advance before visiting a Department office. Department office hours and locations are posted on the Department's web site at www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/officelocations.html.

The License and Revenue Branch in Sacramento only issues commercial fishing items by mail.

LICENSE FEE INCREASES

License fee increases are part of the 2003-2004 fiscal-year budget, which was passed in August 2003 by the State Legislature. Fee increases were necessary to help fund increasing costs to the Department for managing California's fish, wildlife, and plant resources and the habitats upon which they depend.

The fees for commercial fishing licenses and commercial boat registrations have not changed since 1993. Beginning with the 2005-2006 license year, fees set in Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) or the Fish and Game Code (FGC) will be subject to the same cost of living index that is applied to recreational and other business licenses.

**All Department offices
will be closed on March 31, 2004
in observance of Cesar Chavez Day.**

2004-2005 FEE CHANGES

Resident Commercial Fishing License	\$95.00
Nonresident Commercial Fishing License	\$285.00
Commercial Ocean Enhancement Stamp	\$35.00
Resident Commercial Boat Registration	\$250.00
Nonresident Commercial Boat Registration	\$750.00
Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel License .	\$250.00

DISCONTINUED LICENSES

Effective with the 2004-2005 license year, the entitlements listed below have been discontinued:

- Resident Commercial Fishing License (Operator)
- Resident Commercial Fishing License (Crewmember)
- Junior Commercial Fishing License
- Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel License for Salmon Vessels

RENEWAL BY MAIL

You may renew your commercial fishing licenses and permits by mail from one of nine Department offices located throughout the State.

RENEWALS

Please remember to:

- Review the preprinted information on your application and make any necessary changes or corrections.
- Submit all the required applications so your permits can be issued.
- Sign and date your application(s).
- Complete the enclosed worksheet and return it with your application(s).
- Enclose your check or money order.
- When paying by credit card, sign the worksheet and include the expiration date of the credit card and your daytime telephone number. Credit cards are accepted at all Department offices.
- Mail your application(s) early if you plan to fish April 1. FGC Section 7857(d) requires that you have your commercial fishing license and any applicable permit in possession when fishing. Under FGC Section 7880, a valid commercial boat registration must be on board all vessels used in connection with commercial fishing operations.
- Allow 15 business days for processing your license and permit applications.

SALMON STAMP FEE

Based on the 2003 commercial salmon harvest, the fee for a 2004-2005 Commercial Fishing Salmon Stamp is \$222.50.

DEADLINE TO RENEW 2003-2004 GENERAL GILL NET PERMITS

Commercial fishermen who held valid 2002-2003 General Gill/Trammel Net Permits who have not purchased a 2003-2004 permit must do so on or before, March 31, 2004, to maintain eligibility in this fishery. Renewal applications must be received in person at a Department office, or if mailed, postmarked on or before March 31, 2004. If the application is received or postmarked after the March 31, 2004 deadline, the permit is considered expired and the permit holder must appeal in writing to the Department to have the permit reinstated.

LANDINGS NO LONGER REQUIRED TO RENEW SEA URCHIN DIVING PERMITS

Sea Urchin Diving permittees are no longer required to meet minimum landing requirements to be eligible to renew their permit. Sea Urchin Diving Permits for 2004-2005 will be issued to commercial fishermen who held a valid 2003-2004 Sea Urchin Diving Permit.

SEA URCHIN DRAWING CHANGES

The Fish and Game Commission amended Section 120.7, Title 14, of the CCR. The amendment gives sea urchin crewmember permittees who enter the drawing, for new sea urchin diving permits, one additional drawing entry for each year they possessed a valid sea urchin crewmember above a minimum of two years, to a maximum of five entries per drawing.

RENEWING NEARSHORE FISHERY PERMITS

Before a Nearshore Fishery Permit can be renewed the applicant must purchase a 2004-2005 Commercial Fishing License and have possessed a valid 2003-2004 Nearshore Fishery Permit.

Permits can only be renewed for the area and in the category (transferable or nontransferable) that they were originally issued.

NEARSHORE FISHERY PERMIT RENEWAL DEADLINE REMINDER

Applications to renew a Nearshore Fishery Permit must be received at a Department office, or if mailed, postmarked on or before April 30, 2004. Applications, received or postmarked from May 1 through May 31, 2004 must be accompanied by a \$50 late fee. Applications received or postmarked after the May 31, 2004 deadline will be returned to the applicant who may appeal the late application in writing to the Department.

RENEWING NEARSHORE FISHERY TRAP ENDORSEMENTS

Before a Nearshore Fishery Trap Endorsement can be renewed the applicant must purchase a 2004-2005 Nearshore Fishery Permit and have possessed a valid 2003-2004 Nearshore Fishery Trap Endorsement.

Endorsements can only be renewed for the area and in the category (transferable or nontransferable) that they were originally issued.

NEARSHORE FISHERY TRAP ENDORSEMENT RENEWAL DEADLINE REMINDER

Applications to renew a Nearshore Fishery Trap Endorsement must be received at a Department office, or if mailed, postmarked on or before April 30, 2004. Applications, received or postmarked from May 1 through May 31, 2004 must be accompanied by a \$50 late fee. Applications received or postmarked after the May 31, 2004 deadline will be returned to the applicant who may appeal the late application in writing to the Department.

RENEWING NEARSHORE FISHERY BYCATCH PERMITS

Before a Nearshore Fishery Bycatch Permit can be renewed the applicant must purchase a 2004-2005 Commercial Fishing License and have possessed a valid 2003-2004 Nearshore Fishery Bycatch Permit.

NEARSHORE FISHERY BYCATCH PERMIT RENEWAL DEADLINE REMINDER

Applications must be received at a Department office, or if mailed, postmarked on or before April 30, 2004. Applications, received or postmarked from May 1 through May 31, 2004 must be accompanied by a \$50 late fee. Applications received or postmarked after the May 31, 2004 deadline will be returned to the applicant who may appeal the late application in writing to the Department.

ROCK CRAB TRAP PERMIT PROPOSED

The Fish and Game Commission and the Department are developing a restricted access program for the commercial rock crab trap fishery. View the proposed regulations at www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/proposedregs.html. If permit requirements are adopted they would become effective April 1, 2005.

RENEWING DEEPER NEARSHORE SPECIES FISHERY PERMITS

Before a Deeper Nearshore Species Fishery Permit can be renewed the applicant must purchase a 2004-2005 Commercial Fishing License and have possessed a valid 2003-2004 Deeper Nearshore Species Fishery Permit. Section 150.02, Title 14, of the CCR, established a December 31, 1999, control date. Initial participation in this fishery after December 31, 1999, may not guarantee participation in a future restricted access program.

IMPORTANT! Any applicant who is issued a 2004-2005 Deeper Nearshore Species Fishery Permit is not guaranteed eligibility under any future restricted access program for this fishery that might be adopted by the Fish and Game Commission.

DEEPER NEARSHORE SPECIES FISHERY PERMIT RENEWAL DEADLINE REMINDER

Applications to renew a Deeper Nearshore Species Fishery Permit must be received at a Department office, or if mailed, postmarked on or before April 30, 2004. Applications received from May 1 through May 31, 2004 will be assessed a \$50 late fee. If the application is not received or postmarked on or before May 31, 2004, the permit is considered expired and permit holders must appeal in writing to the Commission for reinstatement.

RENEWING DUNGENESS CRAB VESSEL PERMITS

Before a Dungeness Crab Vessel Permit can be renewed, the vessel owner must purchase a 2004-2005 Commercial Fishing License and a 2004-2005 Commercial Boat Registration for the qualified vessel; and have possessed a valid 2003-2004 Dungeness Crab Vessel Permit. A Dungeness crab vessel owner cannot designate an agent and must purchase a Commercial Fishing License even if he/she does not intend to commercially fish during the 2004-2005 license year.

DUNGENESS CRAB VESSEL PERMIT RENEWAL DEADLINE REMINDER

Applications to renew a Dungeness Crab Vessel Permit must be received at a Department office, or if mailed, postmarked on or before April 30, 2004. Applications received by the Department or if mailed, postmarked from May 1 through May 31, 2004, will be assessed a \$50 late fee. If the application is received or postmarked after the May 31, 2004 deadline, the permit is considered expired and the permit holder must appeal in writing to have the permit reinstated.

RENEWING SALMON VESSEL PERMITS

Vessel owners less than 70 years of age as of April 1, 2004, or their agents, are required to purchase a 2004-2005 Commercial Fishing License, and a 2004-2005 Commercial Fishing Salmon Stamp, even if the owner does not intend to commercially fish for any species during the 2004-2005 license year or if there is a restricted commercial salmon fishing season. In addition, a 2004-2005 Commercial Boat Registration must be purchased for the qualified vessel.

Only vessel owners 70 years of age or older as of April 1, 2004, are exempt from obtaining a Commercial Fishing Salmon Stamp. A salmon vessel owner who designates an agent 70 years of age or older must still purchase a Commercial Fishing License and Commercial Fishing Salmon Stamp for the owner or the agent before a Salmon Vessel Permit can be issued unless the vessel owner is also 70 years of age or older as of April 1, 2004.

SALMON VESSEL PERMIT RENEWAL DEADLINE REMINDER

Applications to renew a Salmon Vessel Permit must be received at a Department office, or if mailed, postmarked on or before March 31, 2004. Applications received by the Department or postmarked from April 1 through April 30, 2004, will be assessed a \$100 late fee. If the application is received or postmarked after the April 30, 2004 deadline, the permit is considered expired and the permit holder must appeal in writing to have the permit reinstated.

LOBSTER OPERATOR PERMIT DRAWING DISCONTINUED

In July 2003, the Fish and Game Commission adopted regulations which repealed the requirement to allow for a drawing if new Lobster Operator Permits are available. Drawings will no longer be held for new Lobster Operator Permits.

MARKET SQUID FISHERY

The Fish and Game Commission and the Department are developing a restricted access program for the squid fishery. For more information visit www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/marketsquid/index.html.

RENEWING NORTHERN PINK SHRIMP TRAWL VESSEL PERMITS

Before a Northern Pink Shrimp Trawl Vessel Permit can be renewed, the vessel owner must purchase a 2004-2005 Commercial Fishing License and a 2004-2005 Commercial Boat Registration for the qualified vessel; and have possessed a valid 2003-2004 Northern Pink Shrimp Trawl Vessel Permit.

NORTHERN PINK SHRIMP TRAWL VESSEL PERMIT RENEWAL DEADLINE REMINDER

Applications to renew a Northern Pink Shrimp Trawl Vessel Permit must be received at a Department office, or if mailed, postmarked on or before April 30, 2004. Applications received by the Department or postmarked from May 1 through May 31, 2004 must be accompanied by a \$50 late fee. If the application is received or postmarked after the May 31, 2004 deadline, the permit is considered expired and the permit holder must appeal in writing to have the permit reinstated.

COONSTRIPE SHRIMP TRAP VESSEL PERMITS

A Coonstripe Shrimp Trap Vessel Permit is required for the owner of any commercial fishing vessel using traps to take, possess aboard a vessel, or land coonstripe shrimp for commercial purposes. Section 180.15, Title 14, of the CCR established a control date of November 1, 2001, for the purpose of considering a future restricted access coonstripe shrimp trap fishery. Initial participation in this fishery after November 1, 2001, may not guarantee participation in a future restricted access program.

IMPORTANT! Any applicant who is issued a 2004-2005 Coonstripe Shrimp Trap Vessel Permit is not guaranteed eligibility under any future restricted access program for this fishery that might be adopted by the Fish and Game Commission.

DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT ADDRESS?

FGC Section 7857(m) requires that any person who holds a valid commercial fishing license, permit, registration, or other entitlement must notify the Department of their old and new addresses within three months of when they move or acquire a new address. Mail your change of address to the Department's License and Revenue Branch, 3211 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95816 or FAX (916) 227-1303.

SPOT PRAWN TRAP VESSEL PERMITS

Before a Spot Prawn Trap Vessel Permit can be renewed, the vessel owner must purchase a 2004-2005 Commercial Fishing License, 2004-2005 Commercial Boat Registration and a 2004-2005 General Trap Permit, and have possessed a valid 2003-2004 Spot Prawn Trap Vessel Permit (Tier 1 or Tier 2).

SPOT PRAWN TRAP VESSEL PERMIT RENEWAL DEADLINE REMINDER

Applications to renew a Spot Prawn Trap Vessel Permit (Tier 1 or Tier 2) must be received at a Department office, or if mailed, postmarked on or before April 30, 2004. Applications received by the Department, or postmarked from May 1 through May 31, 2004 must be accompanied by a \$50 late fee. If the application is received or postmarked after the May 31, 2004 deadline, the applicant or permit holder must appeal in writing to have the permit reinstated.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PRAWN TRAWL FISHERMEN

The Department is currently involved in the development of a number of restricted access programs for California's commercial fisheries. A restricted access program for the spot prawn trap fishery went into effect for the 2002-2003 fishing season. A separate program is being considered for the ridgeback and golden prawn fishery. Sections 120.4 and 180.3, Title 14 of the CCR established a control date of January 1, 1999 for the spot prawn, ridgeback, and golden prawn fisheries. It is likely that guidelines more restrictive than a single landing prior to January 1, 1999, also will be adopted as qualifying criteria for the ridgeback and golden prawn fishery. If you have not landed ridgeback prawn in California prior to January 1, 1999, you will not be eligible for entry into a ridgeback prawn restricted access program that may be implemented. Visit the Fish and Game Commission's web site at www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/index.html for more information.

